

December 15, 2020

Hon. Blaine Higgs, Premier
Chancery Place
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

Dear Premier Higgs:

We are writing to ask that you commit New Brunswick to building a modern electricity system that is affordable, reliable, and environmentally sustainable and to updating our Climate Action Plan.

New Brunswick's [climate plan](#) expires in December 2021. NB Power recently released an [IRP that fails to take into account the most cost-effective opportunities to address climate change](#). Neither are in line with the [federal Government's](#) call for deeper climate action and to greenhouse gas reductions that exceed Canada's current 2030 target.

We ask that you and Environment and Climate Change Minister Crossman task the [Standing Committee](#) on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship to begin the process of updating the provincial plan focused on achieving new 2030 and 2050 targets. Governments globally are committed to zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 ([balancing sources and sinks](#)).

Further, to update the NB Power Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), CCNB asks you and Natural Resources and Energy Development Minister Holland to direct NB Power to develop deep decarbonisation and regional integration pathways to include in its IRP and to submit this updated IRP to the Energy Utilities Board (EUB) for Spring 2021 hearings with expert witnesses and public comment.

We rely too heavily in New Brunswick on dirty fuels like coal, oil and natural gas to generate our power and fuel our transportation system.

A climate-friendly electricity system that is affordable and reliable generates electricity from cost-effective renewable technologies to power our homes, businesses and communities. We also need larger, centralized plants using wind, solar and existing regional hydro. Adding more distributed electricity supply within our province also helps keep the power on when extreme storms knock out transmission lines. Relying on more renewable and existing hydro and other storage technologies means our electricity system does not pollute to make power, helping lower the emissions causing these extreme events.

New [research](#) from the Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB) and the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) shows that electricity plans that favour cleaner electricity are cost competitive. In fact, of the 24 electricity plans reviewed, 80 per cent of the scenarios favouring efficiency and renewable energy were cheaper or within just a few per cent of the scenarios favouring conventional, polluting technologies.

[Two additional studies](#) by East Coast Environmental Law, completed for CCNB and EAC, show that government rules stand in the way of investing to help low-income households spend less on energy; prevent utilities from considering the social and environmental costs of our electricity choices, and fail to send long-term signals to plan now for a zero-emitting electricity system over the next 20 to 30 years.

New Brunswickers have the right to a modern, affordable, reliable, environmentally sustainable electricity system that we can count on to keep warm in winter, cool in summer, to cook our meals, watch our favourite show, and to run public transit and vehicles.

We look forward to your positive response and to positively engaging with your Government and the Energy Utilities Board on the important question of electricity reform in New Brunswick.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Corbett".

Lois Corbett
Executive Director

Cc:

Hon. Michael Holland, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development;

Hon. Gary Crossman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change;

Keith Cronkhite, CEO NB Power